

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

IN RE:

1983 0214 010 007

Doris Conley
188 Alps Road
P. O. Box 2254
Branford, CT 06405
Lic # R16944

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing was presented by the Department of Health Services with a Notice of Hearings and Statement of Charges dated on August 2, 1983, February 15, 1984, and April 18, 1984.

The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378, Connecticut General Statutes. The Notice of Hearings provided that the hearings would take place on September 27, 1983, March 13, 1984, and May 15, 1984 which was continued to June 28, 1984. The hearings were held in the State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut, except June 28, 1984, which was held at the Department of Health Services, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Each member of the Board of Examiners for Nursing involved in this decision attests that he/she has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record.

FACT

1. Doris Conley, respondent, was at all pertinent times licensed to

practice nursing as a registered nurse in Connecticut, with registration number R-16944.

2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-182(c), the respondent was provided a full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of his/her license.

3. The respondent is unable to conform her behavior to the accepted standards of the Nursing Profession due to an emotional disorder as evidence by her letter to the State of Maine Board of Nursing. The Board recommended a psychiatric examination be conducted as the result of the September 27, 1983 hearings. On June 28, 1984 the respondent had not submitted a psychiatric evaluation to the Board. Testimony of the respondent was, at times, vague and confusing during the June hearing.

4. The activities referenced in paragraph three (3) were uncovered by Sophie Woodka, Investigator, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, during an investigation carried out from February through June, 1983

DISCUSSION

5. The First Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) during 1976, while employed by and on duty at Saint John's Health Center, New Haven, Connecticut, she negligently failed to document the fall and injury of a patient on the patient's medical record. The Board determined the testimony of the respondent and that of the investigator, Division of Medical Quality Assurance is in direct conflict. The respondent states she had not worked at the facility while the investigator reported the respondent had worked at the facility.

The evidence presented to the Board is inconclusive to establish a violation of Section 20-99(b) and, accordingly, this count is dismissed.

6. The Second Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) on September 17, 1981, while employed at St. Raphael Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut, on the 11-7 shift, the respondent left her assigned floor without notice nor without providing for the care of her patients in Medical Intensive Care Unit. The Board determined the testimony of the respondent provided vague information and confusing answers.

The evidence presented to the Board is inconclusive to establish violation of Section 20-99(b) and, accordingly, this count is dismissed.

7. The Third Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) due to her inability to conform her behavior to the accepted Standards of the Nursing Profession as the result of an emotional disorder as evidenced in her letter to the State of Maine Board of Nursing. The Board determined the respondent had been ordered by the Department of Health Services to submit to a psychiatric examination as a method of determining the validity of the count. The respondent has chosen not to comply with the order to provide documentation relative to her emotional health.

Because of the letter written by the respondent to the Maine Board of Nursing and the testimony presented by the respondent, a psychiatric evaluation is essential to judge the current emotional health of the respondent and competency to practice nursing safely.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the Third Count.

ORDER

8. It is the unanimous decision of the Board of Examiners for Nursing that:

The license of the respondent be suspended as of December 1, 1984 until such time that the Board has received and reviewed a psychiatric evaluation which indicates she is a safe practitioner.

9. The respondent, Doris Conley, is hereby directed to surrender her license and current registration to the Board of Examiners for Nursing at 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 on or before December 1, 1984.

10. The Board of Examiners for Nursing herewith advises the Department of Health Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at *Hartford*, Connecticut, this *15th* day of *November*, 1984

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

BY: *Bette Jane M. Murphy - RN*
Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N., Chairman